

To: Col

From: Sam

Production No. BABF20

The Simpsons

"A TALE OF TWO SPRINGFIELDS"

Written by

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TABLE DRAFT

Date 10/14/99

NOTE: FOR TABLE READ ONLY**"A TALE OF TWO SPRINGFIELDS"**

Cast List

HOMER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
 MARGE.....JULIE KAVNER
 BART.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
 LISA.....YEARDLEY SMITH
 SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER...DAN CASTELLANETA
 TODD FLANDERS.....PAMELA HAYDEN
 PHONE RECORDING (O.S.)..TRESS MACNEILLE
 LENNY.....HARRY SHEARER
 CARL.....HANK AZARIA
 BILL.....DAN CASTELLANETA
 MARTY.....HARRY SHEARER
 JINGLE SINGERS.....DAN/HANK/TRESS/PAM
 FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)....PAMELA HAYDEN
 PHONE COMPANY LADY.....TRESS MACNEILLE
 CROWD.....DAN/JULIE/HARRY/HANK/TRESS/
MARCIA
 CARTOON MAN/PHONEY
 MCRINGRING.....HANK AZARIA
 CHIEF WIGGUM.....HANK AZARIA
 DR. HIBBERT.....HARRY SHEARER
 KRUSTY THE CLOWN.....DAN CASTELLANETA
 KENT BROCKMAN.....HARRY SHEARER
 SIDESHOW MEL.....DAN CASTELLANETA

MOE.....HANK AZARIA
 MAYOR QUIMBY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
 MRS. SKINNER.....TRESS MACNEILLE
 BUSINESSMAN.....HARRY SHEARER
 APU.....HANK AZARIA
 JIMBO.....PAMELA HAYDEN
 KEARNEY.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
 DOLPH.....PAMELA HAYDEN
 NURSE.....TRESS MACNEILLE
 MAITRE D'.....DAN CASTELLANETA
 PATRONS.....DAN/HARRY/HANK/TRESS/PAM
 PRINCIPAL SKINNER.....HARRY SHEARER
 MRS. KRABAPPEL.....MARCIA WALLACE
 MR. BURNS.....HARRY SHEARER
 HANS MOLEMAN.....DAN CASTELLANETA
 NED FLANDERS.....HARRY SHEARER
 JAILBIRD.....HANK AZARIA
 SECURITY GUARD.....HANK AZARIA
 BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN.....HANK AZARIA
 PATTI SCIALFA.....TRESS MACNEILLE
 CLARENCE CLEMONS.....HARRY SHEARER
 MAX WEINBERG.....DAN CASTELLANETA
 STEVE VAN ZANDT.....KARL WEIDERGOTT
 BAND.....DAN/HARRY/HANK/TRESS/KARL
 SMITHERS.....HARRY SHEARER
 SEA CAPTAIN.....HANK AZARIA
 NILS LOFGREN.....KARL WEIDERGOTT

GRAMPA.....DAN CASTELLANETA

EAST SPRINGFIELDERS.....DAN/HARRY/HANK/TRESS/MARCIA

A TALE OF TWO SPRINGFIELDS

by

John Swartzwelder

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SIMPSON BACKYARD - DAY

BART holds a bowl of food at the opening of the doghouse.

BART

Here you go, boy. Soup's on.

FEROCIOUS jaws shoot out of the doghouse, and **SNAP** at the bowl. Bart **YELLS** and backs into **SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER**, who is standing behind him looking mildly baffled.

BART (CONT'D)

If you're out here, who's in there?

Bart and Santa's Little Helper peer into the doghouse. There's a warning **HISS** from inside.

BART (CONT'D)

Whoa, a badger! Sorry man, you can't
crash here. Let's go.

He **TAPS** the side of the doghouse with a stick. The badger **SNARLS** furiously.

BART (CONT'D)

clean (SCARED NOISE, THEN TO DOG) Say boy,
aren't you tired of living alone?

SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER

(FRIGHTENED WHIMPER)

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

LISA sits at the table with her computer in front of her.

BART

C'mon, Lis. There's gotta be a way to
lure him out.

LISA

According to WhatBadgersEat.Com,
(READING) "Badgers subsist primarily on
a diet of stoats, voles and marmots."

Bart starts looking through the cans in the cupboard.

BART

Stoats... stoats...

LISA

Stoats are weasels, Bart. They don't
come in cans.

BART

(HOLDING UP CAN, COCKY) Then what's
this?

LISA

That says "corn," Bart.

BART

Must you embarrass me?

LISA

(RE: COMPUTER) Here we are. (READING)
"In a pinch, badgers have even been
known to eat woodpeckers."

BART

Perfect.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BACK YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Bart is at the fence.

BART

Hey, Todd! Can we borrow your
woodpecker?

TODD

I guess so. But we need him back by
six. It's his birthday.

BART

Okay.

Todd hands the BIRD to Bart. It is wearing a party hat.
Bart heads for the doghouse.

LISA

(CALLING FROM WINDOW) No, Bart!

BART

(GRUDGING) All right, geez... (TO

→ BIRD) This isn't over.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BACK YARD - LATER

Homer walks up and sees the kids staring into the doghouse.

HOMER

Television broken?

BART

No, there's a badger in there.

HOMER

Badger, my ass. It's probably
Milhouse.

Homer sticks the upper half of his body into the doghouse.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Milhouse?

We hear **FEROCIOUS GROWLING, SNAPPING** and **TEARING**. Homer crawls out with a torn shirt, bleeding scalp and bite marks on his arms. He examines the marks with a magnifying glass.

HOMER (CONT'D)

It's a badger... Or possibly a griffin. (BEAT) Bart, do you have any dynamite in your room?

BART

Tons.

HOMER

Get it.

Bart heads for his room.

LISA

No, Dad! We don't want to kill him!
Let's call animal control.

HOMER

Great idea. And maybe they can break up that woodpecker party.

We hear **RAUCOUS MUSIC** and **PECKING SOUNDS** from next door.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Homer has the phone book open and finishes **DIALING**.

SFX: DOO-DOO-DOO TONES

PHONE RECORDING (O.S.)

Your call cannot be completed as dialed. Please make sure you have the correct area code.

HOMER

Area code? But it's a local call.

MARGE

The phone company ran out of numbers,
so they split the city into two area
codes. East Springfield keeps the old
636 area code and now we're 939.

HOMER

(THUNDERSTUCK) 939?! What the hell is
that? My life is ruined. Everyone's
life is ruined. This is worse than the
apocalypse! Ten times worse.

MARGE

You just have to remember three extra
numbers.

HOMER

If only it were that easy, Marge. If
only. It were. That easy.

The BADGER looks in the window. Homer waves him away.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Go away. We've got bigger problems
now.

The badger leaves.

HOMER (CONT'D)

I'm not going to stand for this. I'm
going to call the newspapers, the TV
stations, the gas stations, everybody.

He picks up the phone and dials. Immediately the "DOO DOO DOO" tones begin sounding and get louder and shriller. Homer **FALLS** to the floor in a fetal position.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(DISTRAUGHT WHIMPERING)

INT. POWER PLANT - LUNCHROOM - DAY

Homer, Lenny and Carl are eating lunch.

LENNY

So, what area code did you get, Homer?

HOMER

The new one. 939.

LENNY

(SMUGLY) I see.

HOMER

Which one did you get?

LENNY

(SHRUGS) Same.

CARL

I'm not sure which one is supposed to be better. (POINTING TO KEYPAD) The 6 is closer to the 3, so you've got convenience there, but the 9 has less to do with Satan, which is a plus in this religious world of ours.

HOMER

What really burns me up is they didn't give us one word of warning.

CARL

They ran those TV commercials about it.
And that big radio campaign.

LENNY

Don't forget the leaflets they dropped
from the space shuttle. And the two
weeks we all spent at Area Code Camp.

HOMER

(FONDLY) I wet everyone's bed but mine.

EXT. KBBL - DAY - ESTABLISHING

INT. KBBL - CONTINUOUS

BILL and MARTY are doing their show.

BILL

Hey Marty, the boss is coming!

MARTY

Uh oh, Bill. He's gonna give us
another warning about being too
outrageous.

Marty pushes a button. We hear a comical **BOING**.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Homer is on the couch, glumly listening to the radio.

BILL (V.O.)

Not that boss, you nut bar. The Boss,
Bruce Springsteen! We're giving away
tickets to his concert at the historic
Qualtek Arena.

Flush tickets

MARTY (V.O.)

Absolutely. And they're the best seats
in the house; between the drummer and
the bass player.

HOMER

(GASP) Drumside seats?

INT. KBBL - CONTINUOUS

BILL

And now we'll dial our big winner at
random.

He pushes a cart in the machine.

JINGLE SINGERS (V.O.)

DIALING... AT... RANDOMMM!

MARTY

Okay, let's we'll start with 5-5-5...

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

An **EXCITED** Homer leans into the radio.

MARTY (V.O.)

... then 3, 6, 0... aaannnd 9.

HOMER

(GASP) That's my number!

He runs to the phone and waits for it to ring. But nothing
happens. Over the radio we can hear a **PHONE RINGING**.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

Hello?

HOMER

Hey, that's not me!

BART

(REMINDING) We're not in their area
code anymore, Dad.

BILL (V.O.)

Congratulations, you're gonna be
dancing in the dark with the Boss.

Homer **THROWS** the radio down in disgust.

HOMER

(MOANS) It's not fair! I've been a
Springsteen fan since the very
beginning. Since he was Clem McCoy,
and the E Street Band was the Hillbilly
Bugger Boys.

BART

You should call the radio station and
let 'em have it.

HOMER

Good idea.

Homer quickly **DIALS** and gets the "DOO-DOO-DOO" tones,
louder than ever for some reason.

BART

(LAUGHS)

HOMER

Why you little...

He **STRANGLES** Bart with the phone cord.

EXT. TOWN HALL - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

INT. TOWN HALL - CONTINUOUS

MAYOR QUIMBY and a PHONE COMPANY LADY host a town meeting.

PHONE COMPANY LADY

I know that some of you are upset about
the area code change...

Several TOWNSPEOPLE nod.

PHONE COMPANY LADY (CONT'D)

... especially those of you covered
with dynamite...

We see an angry Homer has several sticks of dynamite
wrapped around his chest. He nods politely.

PHONE COMPANY LADY (CONT'D)

First, let me reassure you your fears
are groundless, and your complaints
moronic.

CROWD

(PLEASED MURMUR)

PHONE COMPANY LADY

This film will explain everything to
you in words that you can understand.

The lights dim and a film starts.

CLOSE-UP - SCREEN

A cartoon man made out of an old-style telephone jumps into
frame from above.

CARTOON MAN

Hi. I'm Phoney McRingring, mascot and president of the telephone company. And I'm here to explain why the convenience of one area code in (LOWER VOICE) your town (ORIGINAL VOICE) has been replaced by the convenience of two area codes.

ANGLE ON HOMER

HOMER

I have a question, Phoney.

LISA

It's a movie, Dad.

HOMER

Quiet, honey. Daddy's asking that man a question.

PHONEY

You're probably thinking, "Sure, more area codes are great, and I don't mind paying the extra hidden fees, but how will I remember all those numbers?"

Phoney opens a closet, and is buried by an avalanche of numbers.

PHONEY (CONT'D)

Well, scientists have discovered that even monkeys can memorize ten numbers. Are you stupider than a monkey?

CROWD/CHIEF WIGGUM

No! / I'm not! / Not usually! / (CHIEF
WIGGUM) How big of a monkey?

PHONEY

(CHUCKLES) Of course you're not.

The words, "THE END" appear onscreen.

LENNY

Well I'm convinced. A professional-
looking film like that has gotta be
right.

DR. HIBBERT

I agree. Two area codes is more
convenient.

The crowd MURMURS in agreement. Homer stands.

HOMER

Wait a minute! We haven't heard from
me yet. The nut with the dynamite.
(TO CROWD) The phone company is
bamboozling you! (OFF CROWD'S MURMURS)
That's right. They're engaging in
blatant wool-pulling! Of the over-the-
eyes variety!

CROWD

(BIGGER MURMURS)

HOMER

I accuse the phone company of making
that film on purpose!

PHONE COMPANY LADY

Well of course we did...

Homer climbs onstage and holds up a bandaged finger.

HOMER

Do you know where I got this finger injury? Not from a badger, that's for sure. I got it from excessive dialing!

The crowd's **ANGRY MURMURING** gets louder.

LENNY

Hey! My finger is kind of sore too! And it's a little red on the end! (TO KRUSTY) See my finger?

KRUSTY

Get that away from me.

KENT BROCKMAN

Oh, you 9-3-9 people are just jealous 'cause we get to keep the original area code.

HOMER

You 6-3-6'ers think you're God, and you're not.

SIDESHOW MEL

There is so much jealousy in that remark.

MOE

Who asked you, ya' freak?!

*Face off,
yelling to
across the
stage.*

HOMER

See? People are fighting, threatening others with dynamite, and so on. This area code thing is tearing us apart.

The crowd **MUTTERS** in agreement.

MAYOR QUIMBY

Now people, we might have two area codes, but we're still one city.

HOMER

Like hell we are. West Springfield can do fine on its own. Fellow 9 3-9'ers, I say we break off and form our own city!

Who needs you?

Half the people in the hall **CHEER**. They carry Homer off on their shoulders.

MAYOR QUIMBY

(BEAT) Any more new business?

MRS. SKINNER

When is the city going to sweep my sidewalk?

MAYOR QUIMBY

You pose an excellent question that certainly deserves...

MRS. SKINNER

(SHARPLY) Sweep the sidewalk!

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

mayor?

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Homer is arranging pens, pencils, telephones, etc. on the kitchen table. He's wearing a sash that says "MAYOR".

MARGE

I can't believe you're Mayor of West
Springfield.

HOMER

If it weren't for my inspired
leadership all hell wouldn't have
broken loose.

MARGE

Does your office have to be in the
kitchen?

HOMER

Absolutely. I'll need the crackers for
dignitaries.

WIDEN to reveal Lisa eating cereal on one end of Homer's
"desk."

LISA

If you ask me...

HOMER

Stop right there.

LISA

... dividing the city over something so minor is a terrible idea. It would be like you and mom splitting up every time you have a fight.

HOMER

(SWEETLY) Sweetie, you know your mother and I only stay together for the sake of my political career.

MARGE

(ANGRY) That's not...

An old-style press PHOTOGRAPHER sticks his head in the window. Homer puts his arm around Marge.

HOMER

Big grins!

Marge smiles and Homer kisses her. The moment the photographer leaves, Homer pulls away from Marge and discretely wipes his mouth. Bart enters carrying a huge sack of coins.

BART

Mr. Mayor, the parking meters are heavy with coin. (PLOPS SACK DOWN)

HOMER

Excellent. (PATTING SACK) West Springfield shall be the first half-town to put a man on Mars.

BART

(CONSPIRATORIAL) Flanders?

HOMER

Uh-huh.

LISA

Shouldn't you fix the potholes first?

HOMER

(TO BART) Execute her.

BART

Jawohl, mein Mayor.

Bart approaches Lisa with a WHIRRING cake mixer. Lisa
SCREAMS. Marge grabs the mixer from Bart.

MARGE

No executions!

HOMER

Shouldn't you be in the garage, cooking
dinner? — *Marge*

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Homer is in the middle of the street, HAMMERING up a sign which reads, "West Springfield -- Cradle of the Confederacy". A BUSINESSMAN crosses over into West Springfield, and Homer hurries over, extending a hand in greeting.

HOMER

Welcome to West Springfield, friend!

What's your name?

~~BUSINESSMAN~~

Bob.

HOMER

Enjoy your visit, Bill.

The businessman passes Wiggum, who fingers his gun.

CHIEF WIGGUM

(LOW) I'll be watching you.

HOMER

Now now, Chief. West Springfield is
open to all.

The businessman smiles and walks away.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Put a tail on 'im.

ANGLE ON EAST SPRINGFIELD SIDE OF STREET

Opposite him, Quimby **HAMMERS** in a sign that reads "EAST
SPRINGFIELD -- SLOB-FREE SINCE YESTERDAY". (There's a
silhouette of Homer in a circle with a diagonal line
through it.) He addresses a group of East Springfielders.

MAYOR QUIMBY

The ugly civic tumor known as West
Springfield has been removed!

EAST SPRINGFIELDERS

(CHEER)

MAYOR QUIMBY

In celebration of this moment, I
declare a general amnesty for all
sexual harassment and bribery offenses.

EAST SPRINGFIELDERS

(SOMEWHAT PUZZLED CHEERS)

EXT. KWIK-E-MART - CONTINUOUS

The sign has been altered to read "Kwik-EAST-MART".

INT. KWIK-E-MART - CONTINUOUS

APU is totaling up Marge's bill.

APU

That will be forty-five dollars.

MARGE

For root beer, bananas and toilet paper? You usually only charge twenty-five dollars for that.

APU

I'm sorry Mrs. Simpson, but you are a West Springfielder. We have to charge you foreign devils more.

MARGE

Well all right, but this better be the best toilet paper I've ever had.

APU

No worries there. That's Henderson's Toilet Paper!

Marge heads for the door. She is stopped by Apu, who beats her to the door.

APU (CONT'D)

Are you planning to pay for those items?

MARGE

I just did!

She holds up the receipt.

APU

Thank you. Do not come again.

An annoyed Marge exits.

EXT. PARK - LATER

Bart is trying to get his frisbee back from some BULLIES.

BART

Hey, give it back! That's my novelty
flying disc.

JIMBO

No way. This is an East Springfield
park. Everything in it belongs to us.

KEARNEY

Hey, his pants are in our park, too.

DOLPH

Get em!

They pants Bart.

BART

My homework is in your park, too.

KEARNEY

Let's do it!

They grab his homework and begin doing it.

DOLPH

What's 7 times 14?

JIMBO

Fifty, stupid. Anything times anything
is fifty.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - THAT NIGHT

The family is watching TV. Bart isn't wearing pants.

MARGE

I don't know what it was, but I didn't feel quite comfortable until I was back here in West Springfield, with my own kind.

LISA

Mom!

MARGE

Well I can't help how I feel. They were looking at me. (BEAT) With their eyes.

BART

Hey, Dad, I thought you were going to be working on all kinds of big changes for your city. Like the supersonic ferryboats.

MARGE

And the world's smallest building...

HOMER

Eh, I built it, but the dog ate it.

The dog opens its mouth and **GAGS**, and a tiny modernistic building falls out. The dog considers the building, then eats it again.

LISA

Did you at least finish writing up that city charter?

HOMER

Nah. If anybody asks about it, I'll just say it's out being framed. Now quiet, everybody. I'm trying to watch the news.

ON TV

KENT BROCKMAN

After 24 hours of living as separate cities, the differences between our two peoples are becoming apparent. On average, West Springfielders earn slightly less per year than we Easterners, but that's because they do slightly shoddier work.

HOMER

How the hell did they find that out?

KENT BROCKMAN

Westerners are also less attractive physically. And while Easterners speak in a well-educated manner, Westerners tend to use lowbrow expressions, like "oh yeah" and "c'mere a minute."

HOMER

Oh yeah? They think they're better than us, do they? Bart, c'mere a minute.

BART

No, you c'mere a minute.

HOMER

Oh yeah?

EXT. POWER PLANT - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

INT. POWER PLANT - MASTER CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Homer and Bart are at the master control panel.

BART

Dad, I don't think this is such a good idea.

HOMER

Thank you, Marge. Now, help me find the switch that cuts the power to East Springfield.

Bart points to a large switch with a sign that reads, "Power to East Springfield".

HOMER (CONT'D)

Jackpot.

Homer **PULLS** the switch to the "off" position.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(CALLING) West Side rules! Woo!

Through a window, we see East Springfield is plunged into darkness, section by section. (West Springfield stays lit.)

INT. HOSPITAL - OPERATING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The lights **FLICKER** a few times, then go out.

NURSE

Power's off. Should we postpone the operation?

DR. HIBBERT

No, we'd better get this brain back in.

KRUSTY

Hurry up, doc. We're losing me.

INT. "GILDED TRUFFLE" RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The PATRONS are dining by candlelight. The restaurant's only electric light, a tiny lamp over the maitre d' stand, **FLICKERS** out.

MAITRE D'

Oh God, no!

PATRONS

(PANICKED SCREAMING)

They run out.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - NIGHT

ON TV

Brockman is doing the news. A couple of bored STAGEHANDS hold Coleman lanterns next to him.

KENT BROCKMAN

In a well-justified retaliation for the power outage, East Springfield patriots - perhaps remembering the Boston Tea Party - dumped all the West Siders' mail into the river.

We see film of mailbags being dumped into the river by people dressed as Indians (Apu, COMIC BOOK GUY, BUMBLEBEE MAN, Principal Skinner).

BART

(POINTING) That's my angry letter to Santa Claus!

HOMER

(POINTING) And there's mine! (BEAT)

So they want to play in the river, do they? We'll see about that.

EXT. RIVER - NEXT DAY

Homer, Moe, BARNEY, Lenny and Carl **STRUGGLE** to turn a giant water valve.

HOMER

I've never felt more petty. Or more alive.

LENNY

There's nothing like revenge for getting back at people.

CARL

I don't know. Vengeance is pretty good.

MOE

Shut up and push!

WIDEN to reveal several huge water pipes in a small river dam. The water **GUSHING** out of them slows to a trickle.

EXT. EAST SPRINGFIELD - LATER

The residents look at their dry riverbed as the last trickle of water **DRAINS** away.

PRINCIPAL SKINNER

They've got us now. Without water, we're doomed.

MRS. KRABAPPEL

Wait a minute. What's that gold-colored substance in the riverbed?

!Moe says

DR. HIBBERT

Why that's gold! (CHUCKLE)

MR. BURNS

Eureka! I'm slightly richer!

The **CHEERING** East Siders rush down into the riverbed and begin picking up gold nuggets.

DISSOLVE TO:

KENT BROCKMAN - ON TV - LATER

Brockman is wearing gold rings and chains.

KENT BROCKMAN

With the money made from the gold, East Springfield was able to buy the Evian water factory and fly it over here from France.

We see footage of the Evian factory being lowered onto the dry riverbed. (Black smoke billows out of the smokestack.)

KENT BROCKMAN (CONT'D)

With enough money left over for a big party. (LIFTS GLASS) Thank you, West Springfield.

PULL BACK to reveal we are...

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - TV ROOM - DAY

HOMER

That makes me feel so frustrated. This calls for an even bigger overreaction.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MAIN STREET - THE NEXT DAY

Homer and many other West Siders walk by, carrying bricks and boards, and pushing wheelbarrows. WIDEN to reveal they're building a makeshift Berlin-type wall. (It is made out of lots of scavenged materials, such as a rowboat, a couch, a car door, the Olmec head from the Simpson basement, some empty beer kegs, and a couple of tombstones.)

LISA

Can't you see what you're doing? This
is just like the Berlin Wall!

HOMER

I believe we thought of it first.

Lisa turns away in disgust. Through a small hole in the wall, she catches a glimpse of a HANDSOME BOY on the other side.

LISA

(GASP)

Their eyes meet for a suspended moment. Suddenly, a cement block plugs the hole, blotting out their view of each other.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY - LATER

The wall is now completed. Homer stands on top of a platform with the family, addressing a crowd of West Springfielders. (Lenny, Carl, Barney, Moe, GROUNDSKEEPER WILLIE, FLANDERS, FRINK, PATTY and SELMA, GRAMPA, DISCO STU, JASPER, JAILBIRD, SEA CAPTAIN, OTTO and Wiggum.)

HOMER

(EMOTIONAL) This is a proud day for
West Springfield. A lot of love went
into this wall. Love of hatred for
East Springfield.

ANGLE ON THE CROWD

CHEERING. Moe wipes a tear away. Carl raises his hand.

CARL

So Homer, what if we want to buy something? 'Cause East Springfield's got all the whatchamacallits.

LENNY

Stores?

CARL

Yeah, those.

HOMER

That's the whole point of the wall. We don't need East Springfield.

(IMPASSIONED) West Springfield can stand on its own.

CROWD

(LESS ENTHUSIASTIC CHEERING)

MOLEMAN

Mr. Mayor? The hospital's in East Springfield, and I'm scheduled for a liver transplant...

HOMER

(CUTTING HIM OFF QUICKLY) No exceptions. Yes, young lady?

LISA

What about the school? That's in East Springfield.

FLANDERS

So's the church.

JAILBIRD

And the bank.

We CUT TO Moleman clutching his side, **TREMBLING**.

MOLEMAN

And the paramedics.

He **FALLS** over, apparently dead.

MOE

And the cemetery.

CROWD

(CHIMING IN AGREEMENT) The Kinko's /
The Craft Mall / The Big and Tall Man's
Store.

HOMER

People, I didn't say it was gonna be
easy. There will be some tough times,
some shortages, possibly a plague or
two. But if you'll just have faith in
me -- hey!

WIDEN to reveal that many West Springfielders are streaming
over the wall.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Stop streaming over the wall! C'mon!

At least wait till I'm through talking.

The people turn and listen, but keep climbing slowly.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Okay, (CONSULTS NOTES) now as for food,
the following breeds of dog are
edible...

The townspeople stream over the wall even faster, some of them actually climbing over Homer and using his mouth as a foothold.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPRINGFIELD - AERIAL SHOT - MORNING

The CAMERA MOVES from a BUSTLING, LIVELY crowded East Springfield across the wall to a deserted ghost town-like West Springfield. A tumbleweed BLOWS down the street.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The family is eating breakfast. A downbeat Homer spills some food down his mayoral sash.

BART

Dad, you got jelly on your sash.

HOMER

(GLUM) Great.

Homer PULLS the stained section of sash down from a shoulder-mounted roll (through a cutter blade) and TEARS it off, leaving a fresh section of sash (that also reads "Mayor").

HOMER (CONT'D)

(MOROSE) I can't believe the entire town fled for their lives. This could cost me the governor's mansion.

BART

Eh, I think we could probably spin it to your advantage.

deserted one

*Don't sweat it, Dad
will*

MARGE

Yeah, look at George W. Bush and all
that crack.

HOMER

Well, it really means a lot that my
family is still here.

LISA

It's not like we had much choice.

Lisa pulls her hand out from under the table, revealing
that she's handcuffed to the chair. We see that Bart and
Marge are handcuffed to their chairs as well.

HOMER

(TOUCHED) Yeah, but you could have
chewed your arm off, and you didn't.

(WEEPY) Oh, what am I gonna do?

Homer **BREAKS DOWN** and starts crying, then **BLOWS** his nose on
his sash. He **PULLS** down a new one that reads "TIME TO
REORDER".

HOMER (CONT'D)

(AMAZED) That was five hundred
already?

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

The Simpson family walks along the wall in the now-deserted West Springfield.

BART

Well, Dad, you're mayor of a ghost town.

HOMER

(BITTER) Where's the loyalty? I had a hundred-year plan.

LISA

Can I see it?

HOMER

It's, uh, being framed.

He puts his fist **THROUGH** a storefront window, pulls out a large summer sausage and eats it as he walks.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Anyhow, I know Springfielders. They have a tendency to operate as a crazed mob. And when that mob surges back here tonight for the Springsteen concert, I'll torch their precious East Springfield.

MARGE

But the concert's in East Springfield.

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

A dejected Homer starts **PUNCHING** the wall.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(MOANS) This stupid wall was a stupid idea. I'm the stupidest mayor West Springfield has ever had.

LISA

(COMFORTING) Aw, don't say that, Dad.

BART

Yeah. There must be a way to get Springsteen and the band over here.

MARGE

You could cook up some sort of scheme.
Or, a crazy scheme!

HOMER

Oh, you guys are no help at...
(BRIGHTENING) Wait a minute. Did you say a crazy scheme?!

MARGE

(FLUSTERED) I don't know. I said so many things.

HOMER

You're my rock, Marge.

Homer gives Marge a passionate kiss, then **SMASHES** the window of a store called, "JUST CHLOROFORM" and pulls out a bottle.

HOMER (CONT'D)

C'mon, Bart. We're going to bring back The Boss.

Homer **KISSES** the chloroform bottle, and they scramble over the wall.

EXT. HOTEL - LATER

INT. HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Homer and Bart step out of an elevator and look around sneakily. A burly **SECURITY GUARD** confronts them.

SECURITY GUARD

Can I help you?

BART

(QUIETLY) Now Dad!

Homer pulls out the bottle of chloroform.

HOMER

(TO GUARD) I'll give you this bottle
of chloroform if you'll take us to
Bruce Springsteen.

Bart **SLAPS** his forehead in dismay.

SECURITY GUARD

(SARCASTIC) Oh, so you want to see
Bruce Springsteen, huh? I'll take you
to Bruce Springsteen.

He picks Homer and Bart up by their collars.

CLOSE-UP

on a hotel door. It **BURSTS** open. The guard throws Homer and Bart toward camera.

SECURITY GUARD

(SARCASTIC) Here's your Bruce
Springsteen.

WIDEN to reveal we are in Bruce Springsteen's hotel room.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

(TO GUARD) I thought I fired you.

SECURITY GUARD

(SARCASTIC) Right. Bruce Springsteen
fired me.

The guard rolls his eyes and walks away.

PATTI SCIALFA

He's a complicated man.

Homer and Bart stand up and look around.

HOMER

Hi, Bruce. I'm Homer Simpson, Mayor of
West Springfield.

CLARENCE CLEMONS (O.S.)

Hey!

We PAN OVER to a large hotel bed, where the ENTIRE BAND is
under the covers, à la the Three Stooges.

CLARENCE

Some of us are trying to sleep.

BART

You all sleep in the same bed?

BRUCE

We do everything together. We're a
band.

MAX WEINBERG

Tomorrow night we've got a date with a
waitress.

HOMER

First let me say that I am your biggest fan, Bruce. I just love "War." That is the best song you ever wrote. All the rest are crap compared to that one.

BRUCE

Actually, I didn't write that song.

Homer stares at him for a long beat.

HOMER

Anyhoo, I need a huge favor. My hometown is in trouble. The steel mills are closing, the farms are overrun with animals...

BRUCE

(CONCERNED) Are you talking about a heartland town?

HOMER

Am I ever!

BRUCE

Oh, 'cause that's more of a Mellencamp thing.

HOMER

Did I say "heartland"? I meant "badlands."

STEVE VAN ZANDT

Hey, Boss, Clarence keeps kicking me.

CLARENCE

(TO STEVE) You're dead, squealer.

PATTI

(ANNOYED) Just switch places with Max.

HOMER

Bruce, I implore you not to play in
East Springfield, or as it is sometimes
known, Sun City.

BRUCE

But I have a handshake agreement with a
concert promoter. That's a sacred
bond.

The band all nods knowingly.

BAND

Sacred bond.

HOMER

(GIVING UP) I understand, Bruce.
You're a busy rock star. You can't
help every working man with a sob
story. (TURNING TO BART) Come on,
son. Let's go watch our town die.

Homer and Bart exit.

BRUCE

Can you believe the nerve of that...
He sees the band glaring at him disapprovingly.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

(DEFENSIVE) What? You don't honestly
think we should've...

They turn away and pull the covers up.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

Patti, tell them why...

PATTI

(COLD) Don't touch me.

Off of Bruce's torn expression, we:

CUT TO:

EXT. EAST SPRINGFIELD ARENA - NIGHT

The marquee reads, "BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN & THE E STREET BAND
-- 18 NIGHTS ONLY".

INT. EAST SPRINGFIELD ARENA - CONTINUOUS

The arena is filled with expectant East Springfielders.

KRUSTY

*after
can*
(TO SIDESHOW MEL) I saw him on the
"Tunnel of Love" tour, and he played
for forty-two hours. The next night's
audience had to wait in their cars.

SIDESHOW MEL

(CALLING) Brrrrrruce!

ANGLE ON

Burns and Smithers.

MR. BURNS

Smithers, why did you iron a crease in
these dungarees? I look like a square.

SMITHERS

That crease is in your leg, Sir.

MR. BURNS

So it is.

He runs his hand along the crease proudly.

ANGLE ON

Principal Skinner, in a "Born in the USA" denim and bandana outfit, looks at his watch.

PRINCIPAL SKINNER

It's not like The Boss to be tardy.

Not like him at all.

Suddenly, we hear the opening CHORDS of a SPRINGSTEEN SONG in the distance. The concertgoers crane their necks toward the sound.

MRS. KRABAPPEL

Hey! That sounds like Springsteen.

The Sea Captain sights along an old-fashioned navigating device.

SEA CAPTAIN

Arrr! By my reckoning, he's three nautical blocks due west.

MOE

West?! (PUNCHING HAND) Homer must've hijacked The Boss. I'm gonna kick his sash!

SIDESHOW MEL

Who's ready to riot?!

CROWD

(CHEERS)

The angry crowd runs out of the stadium.

CLOSE-UP

on the band, **FINISHING** a song. **WIDEN** to reveal they're playing on top of Homer's wall.

BRUCE

How you guys doing out there?

The Simpsons, in folding chairs, **CLAP** and **CHEER**.

MARGE

To be honest, it's a little chilly.

NILS LOFGREN

Homer, we were expecting a bigger crowd.

HOMER

Don't worry. Pretty soon, West Springfield will be flooded with people. And I'll be their king.

BRUCE

(**CONFUSED**) You said something about a steel mill closing down.

HOMER

(**BEAT, THEN SHOUTS REQUEST**) "Rosalita"!

The band starts to **PLAY**. The angry East Springfielders show up on the other side of the wall.

MOE

(**YELLING OVER WALL**) Give us back our concert, Homer!

The band stops playing.

HOMER

(YELLING OVER WALL) Is that you, Moe?
'Cause if it is, shut up!

GRAMPA

(YELLING OVER WALL) You shut up, son!

CHIEF WIGGUM

Turn around, Bruce! Play to us!

EAST SPRINGFIELDERS

(SHOUTING ASSENT)

BART

(YELLING OVER WALL) If you want to see
him, come over here, you traitors!

FLANDERS

Aw, heck. I'll go back. Kinda miss my
house, anyway.

Ned starts to climb over the wall, but is **PULLED DOWN** by
the crowd.

HOMER

Hey, leave Flanders alone!

Homer **FLINGS** his chair over the wall. It **HITS** Ned in the
back of the head.

FLANDERS

(PAINED SOUND)

BRUCE

(TO CROWD) Hey, c'mon, everybody! You
all have roots in Springfield, right?

CROWD

(MUTTERS AGREEMENT)

BRUCE

Then why all this hatred?

LISA

It's because we have two different area codes.

BRUCE

Well, let me tell you a story about area codes. My father had just brought home our first telephone. It was fire engine red. The ringer didn't work, but nobody cared.

PATTI

(QUIETLY) Bruce, please...

BRUCE

Anyway, long story short, you've got to put aside your differences and buy phones with speed-dialing capability.

CLARENCE

Radio Shack has some great ones.

BRUCE

The Big Man speaks the truth.

HOMER

"Pink Cadillac"!

EAST SPRINGFIELDERS

Yeah! / "Pink Cadillac"! / etc.

BRUCE

We'll play "Pink Cadillac" if you tear
down this wall.

HOMER

"Hungry Heart"!

EAST SPRINGFIELDERS

Yeah! / "Hungry Heart"! / etc.

The band shrugs and starts to **PLAY**. We **PAN DOWN** to Santa's Little Helper. He sees a piece of rope embedded in the wall and starts to tug at it. Suddenly, a large section of wall (not the one the band is on) **CRASHES DOWN**. The jubilant East Springfielders rush through.

MARGE

I knew they'd come crawling back.

Homer and Marge **HIGH-FIVE** and start to dance, as we;

FADE OUT:

THE END